



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
June 27, 2003**

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N – Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 – (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building – 1111 Washington Street SE – Olympia, WA

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Name of Proposal: BEAVER DAM BREACHING AT BELLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Description of Proposal: The proponent plans on breaching six beaver dams constructed in the last 5 years to reduce increased impounding of water. The project area is a mitigation site that has been impaired by the dams. The dams will be breached across the stream channel only. The plan is to breach the dams no more than 12 inches below the current water level behind the dam. The work will occur one dam at a time, beginning with the most downstream dam first.

The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

1. Large woody material embedded in the bank or streambed shall be left undisturbed and intact.
2. Removal of beaver dam material or repositioning of large woody material shall be accomplished in a manner minimizing the release of bed-load, logs, or debris downstream.
3. Hand-removal of debris from the water is required. Silt fences should be installed on the edges of the approach road to prevent erosion entering the stream from any equipment (i.e., excavators) that may be used to remove debris from the site.
4. Each beaver dam shall be removed gradually to provide for a slow release of impounded water.

Proponent: Port of Bellingham, 1801 Roeder Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98226.
Contact Person: Scott Wendling.

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Bellingham International Airport (BLI), Wynn Road and Country Lane, Parcel No. 3802154181700000, Bellingham, Washington, Whatcom County; Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 38 North, Range 02 East WM

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of the completed

environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issue below. Comments must be submitted by: **June 26, 2003**

Responsible Official: Cynthia R. Pratt

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

Please contact: Cynthia R. Pratt **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or
e-mail: habitatSEPA@dfw.wa.gov if you have questions or comments about this determination.

DATE OF ISSUE: June 12, 2003 **SIGNATURE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia R. Pratt', is written over a horizontal line.

SEPA Log Number: 03-048mdns